

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 DEAE-00 SNM-02 SCI-06 AID-20

L-03 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 DRC-01 HEW-08 /121 W

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R 051235Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLASSIFIED IZMIR 380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: MORE CRITICISM OF POPPY BAN

1. YENI ASIR, IZMIR'S SECOND LARGEST DAILY, CARRIED ARTICLE SEPT 1 ON OPIUM POPPY BAN. ARTICLE SIGNED BY AEFEAN UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING PROFESSOR AND ONE-TIME ACTING RECTOR KEMAL KARHAN. KARHAN CONTENTS BAN WAS FORCED ON COUNTRY BY ERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH, HAVING BEEN INSTALLED BY MILITARY WAS NOT BEHOLDEN TO ELECTORATE BUT WAS RESPONSIVE TO FORENGN PRESSURE. ACCORDING TO KARHAN NO MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORTS BAN: THEREFORE REGARDLESS

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OF WHICH PARTY FORMS GOVERNMENT AFTER ELECTION POPPY CULTIVATION WILL BE RESUMED.

2. KARHAN ALSO POINTS OUT CRITICISM OF BAN NOT CONFINED TO TURKEY BUT IT ALSO FOUND IN U.S. DURING MEETING EARLIER THIS SUMMER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE NARCOTICS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A PROJECTED SHORTAGE OF MEDICINAL OPIUM NEXT YEAR LED TO CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION

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TO SUPPORT CULTIVATION BAN IN TURKEY. KARHAN

CLAIMS THAT TO RELIEVE ANTICIPATED SHORTAGE BILL
HAS BEEN PROPOSED IN CONGRESS TO LEGALIZE OPIUM
POPPY CULTIVATION IN U.S.

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH OBSERVATION THAT IT NOW
APPARENT THAT BAN, WHICH AT FIRST GLANCE SEEMED
TO BE CIVILIZED APPROACH TO HEROIN PROBLEM, IN FACT
BENEFITS NEITHER TURKEY NOR U.S.

R. COMMENT: WE EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME AS
PROPOSERS OF RESUMPTION OF CULTIVATION TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF APPROACHING ELECTION TO WRING
CONCESSIONS FROM POLITICIANS. IT SURPRISING THAT

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THEME OF WORLD SHORTAGE OF MEDICINAL OPIUM HAS NOT
RECEIVED BIGGER PLAY IN PRESS, SINCE IT PROVIDES EASY
MORAL RATIONALIZATION FOR RESUMPTION OF CULTIVATION.
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